

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Developmental Disabilities Committee Meeting

LOCATION

Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date

March 4, 2013
10:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Kathy Fitzgerald
Ric Nelson
Kim Champney
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Maureen Harwood
Susan Kaplan
Steve Lesko
Sean O'Brien
Diana Strzok
James Wiedle
Steve Williams

Staff:

Teresa Holt
Carrie Predeger
Patrick Reinhart

Guests:

Heather Chord
Dave Fleurant
Jesse Hill

Minutes prepared by: Jeannette Rice, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 10:05 a.m.
Roll Call

READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION

Ric Nelson read the Council's mission statement: Creating change that improves the lives of people with disabilities.

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS

Diana Strzok announced that Stone Soup Group has a new executive director named Mary Elam, who will be starting on April 2nd. Mary currently works for the Alaska Native Justice Center, and previously worked with STAR.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Kathy Fitzgerald added proposed reductions from House Finance under New Business. Ric Nelson added his meeting with Duane Mayes last week. Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the agenda as amended. The motion **PASSED**.

APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETING

Steve Lesko **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Carrie Predeger stated that the only correspondence was the letter from the Medicaid Ad Hoc Reform Committee to Commissioner Streur, which isn't on the agenda because it still needs to be officially approved by the Executive Committee later today. Ric Nelson and Kathy Fitzgerald described the letter to DD Committee members. The letter recommends ways to reduce waste and save money in six areas of Medicaid spending.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of FY 12 DD Registration and Review Report

Maureen Harwood explained that the structure of the report is the same as usual, except that she attached the statute to the back so people could see the law that requires the DD Registry. Maureen also pointed out that they included the length of time that people have been on the wait list and information on how many people are getting services through grants. Maureen stated that the wait list is holding at around 652. Steve Lesko asked about the 149 that did not respond to requests for information, and whether they are likely to show up again. Maureen Harwood suggested that perhaps they had reached the age where schools were providing services, but she would try to find out the ages of those and report back.

Proposed Reductions from House Finance

Committee members discussed the proposed budget reductions that they have heard about. Steve Lesko said that he heard that the House HSS Committee is looking to enact about \$10 million worth of cuts, mostly directed toward Behavioral Health. Kim Champney added that Millie Ryan had forwarded several e-mails from the Trust with talking points for public testimony tomorrow, particularly focusing on the Complex Behavior Collaborative and the cuts to Behavioral Health. Kim said she would send Millie's e-mails to Carrie so she could forward them to the committee after the meeting.

Teresa Holt joined the meeting later, and the committee returned to this topic. Teresa explained that the House Finance Committee closed out their budget on Friday, and Behavioral Health faces an \$8.3 million cut to base budget funding. Teresa stated that the Council needs to make sure people call in to the public hearings and testify on behalf of the Complex Behavior Collaborative. Teresa gave information about the scheduled times for public testimony from different regions of the state.

Ric Nelson's Meeting with Duane Mayes

Ric Nelson reported that he met with Duane Mayes last week. They discussed the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee letter, and Duane liked the

ideas. Ric said that they also talked about the need for better communication between Duane and the Council, and Duane said that he would like to be invited to every Council meeting and have an opportunity to report on what DSDS is doing.

Discussion ensued about DD and Behavioral Health teaming up to serve people affected by FASD, who are often treated under mental health services. Kathy stated that she would put FASD on the agenda for the next DD Committee meeting.

Integrated Employment Initiative

Patrick Reinhart joined the meeting with some guests from outside Alaska who are helping with the Employment Initiative Grant. Patrick introduced John Butterworth of the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and Rie Kennedy-Lizotte from the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services. Also present were Cindy Gruman and another representative of the Lewin Group, who will be handling the evaluation portion of the grant over the next five years.

John Butterworth explained that he and Rie represent the National Technical Assistance Project, and they want to create concrete lasting changes to policy, funding structure, and staff qualifications, which will improve employment outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Committee members introduced themselves, and several commented that they would be meeting the visitors again the following day.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that since the Executive Committee hadn't met yet, she would skip her report.

Committee Reports

Developmental Disability Program

Maureen Harwood reported that they are getting a lot of requests for IDD eligibility and have seen a rise in the number of people requesting assistance through TEFRA. Maureen stated that they are still a little understaffed, so they have to prioritize. Steve Lesko asked if it is known how many people on average come on the wait list per month and per year and where they come from. Maureen said they haven't tracked that information in the past, but she would try to get it. Maureen stated that they have noticed that how the STAR person words things on the paperwork may affect who gets drawn off the wait list, and they are considering whether the system is working effectively. Maureen stated that she would like to gather more information on that and then discuss it with the Council.

AADD

Kim Champney stated that Carrie Predeger had prepared a survey about the number and type of audits that provider agencies have had to undergo. Carrie remarked that there were seven responses as of this morning. Kim explained that she hopes the survey results may help AADD to suggest more efficient methods of tracking the information required by the audits.

Kim stated that AADD presented its new strategic plan at their executive committee meeting last week, which Ric, Kathy, and Teresa attended. Kim stated that partnerships are a primary focus of the new plan, and noted that she also had a meeting with Duane Mayes to discuss working more collaboratively.

Kim added that there is a lot of pressure to show outcomes, and many states are using a set of standards called the National Core Indicators. Teresa Holt is going to do some research on it, then the Council can put together a proposal presenting the National Core Indicators to the State as a possible tool for measuring the impact of services provided.

Key Coalition

Steve Lesko reported that Key's board met last Friday and put together a summary page with follow-ups to their legislative meetings, answering every question. Steve discussed how Key's five priorities are currently doing in the legislature, and he noted that since they met in Juneau, Representative Costello introduced House Bill 134 to continue to provide medisets, prepackaged sets of medications organized for a week at a time, to waiver recipients. Steve added that Hope's nursing department has analyzed HB 134 and considers it a good bill. Carrie commented that she checked BASIS and there are no co-sponsors yet.

Council and Executive Committee Update

Ric Nelson noted that Teresa was officially instated as the Council's new executive director two Fridays ago. Carrie added that the planner position is open for 10 days, and they hope to hire someone soon after that. The Health Program Manager I position is also open.

Carrie stated that there is an assistive technology conference sponsored by AIDD coming up in Colorado in October. Carrie explained that it's different from the one which is in San Diego every year because it focuses specifically on developmental disabilities, and the Council might want to send someone. Committee members agreed, and Carrie said that she will look into putting it on the travel plan.

Peer Power

Ric Nelson reported that Peer Power had their board meeting on February 12th and held elections. Ric is now the president of Peer Power. Ric and Barbara Dick met and did the bylaws, which now need to be approved by the bylaw committee and the full board. Carrie noted that several Council members are regional representatives for Peer Power: Lucy Odden for southcentral, Kaleene Lamb for Fairbanks, and Taylor Gregg for southeast and Juneau. Peer Power will have an informational booth at Full Lives in April.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next DD Committee meeting will be on Monday, April 1st, from 10 a.m. to noon.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.